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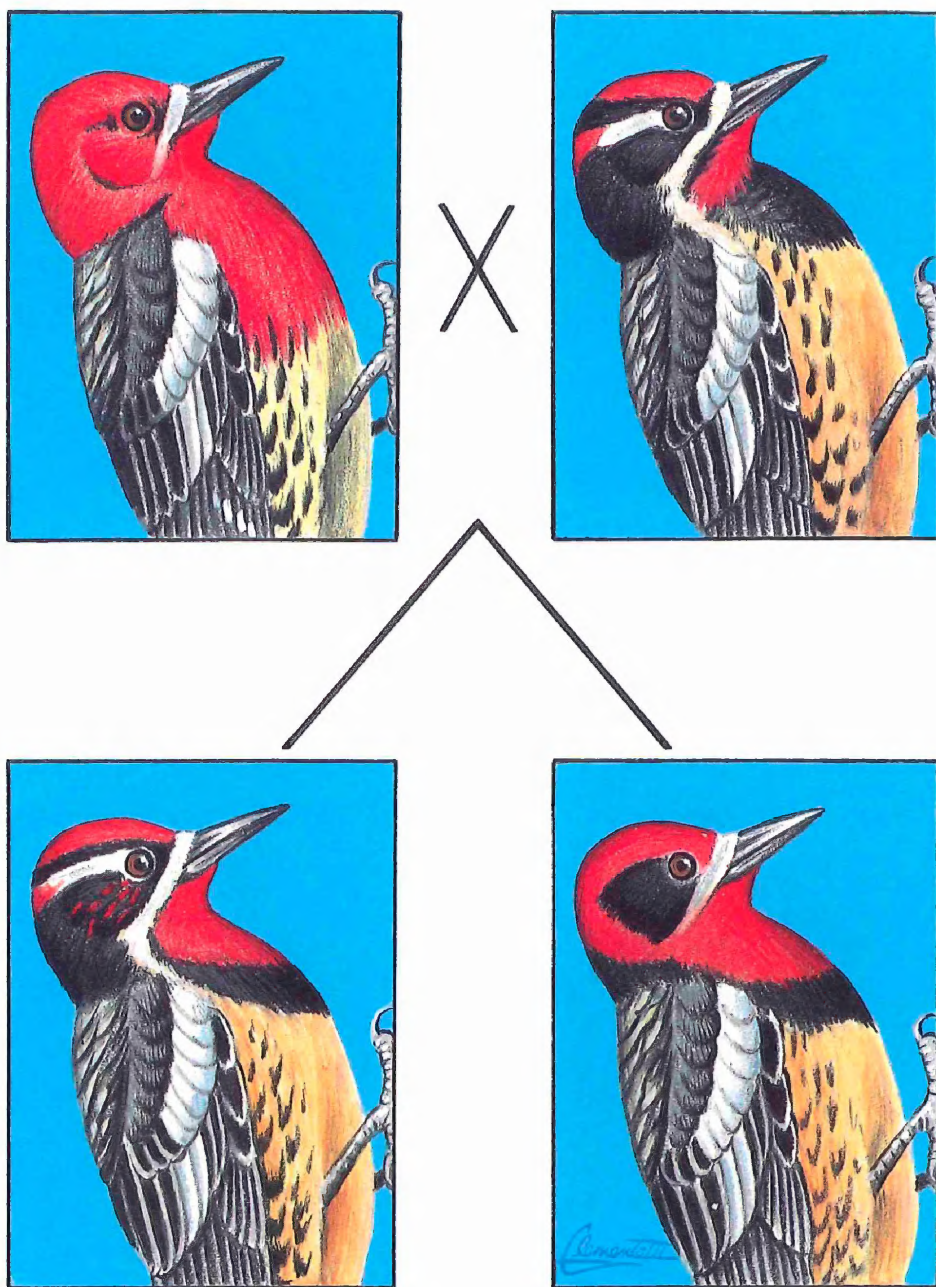
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FRONTISPIECE. The top row portrays parental forms of Red-breasted Sapsucker (left) and Red-naped Sapsucker (right). The bottom row portrays the two hybrid offspring discussed in the first paper, HYB 1 (left) and HYB 2 (right). Illustrations compliments of the Graphics Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, artist Clemente Guzman III. (Publication of frontispiece due to a grant from The Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, Inc.)

THE OCCURRENCE OF RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER AND SUSPECTED HYBRIDS WITH RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER IN TEXAS

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ABSTRACT.—In areas of overlap, hybridization occurs between Red-naped and Red-breasted Sapsuckers. The distribution of hybrid offspring away from the hybrid zones is poorly known. These hybrids could be expected to occur throughout the winter range of either parental type. Two probable Red-naped × Red-breasted Sapsuckers from Texas have been found in the Trans-Pecos and are described here. Details of the first state record for Red-breasted Sapsucker are also examined.

The species limits within the *Sphyrapicus varius* sapsucker complex have been the subject of numerous studies and much debate for many years. The taxa within this group have been treated variously as subspecies of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. varius*) (Howell 1952, AOU 1957) to the currently recognized three species (AOU 1983, 1985). Genetic studies of *Sphyrapicus* confirm that Yellow-bellied, Red-naped (*S. nuchalis*) and Red-breasted (*S. ruber*) sapsuckers form a superspecies of closely related taxa (Johnson and Zink 1983, Cicero and Johnson 1995). These studies also indicate that *S. nuchalis* and *S. ruber* are especially closely related and are considered separate species because they exhibit assortative mating in areas of sympatry (Johnson and Johnson 1985). However, there are small hybrid zones in these areas of sympatry from southern Oregon south through eastern California and western Nevada (Cicero and Johnson 1995). The resulting hybrids vary in appearance and individuals may appear similar to a parental type or intermediate in many characters (Johnson and Johnson 1985). Two probable Red-naped × Red-breasted Sapsuckers from Texas are described here. In addition, details of the first state record for Red-breasted Sapsucker will be examined.

RANGE OF THE RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER

The breeding range of the Red-naped Sapsucker extends from south-central British Columbia southward through the Rocky Mountains to at least southern New Mexico and possibly West Texas (AOU 1983). This species is considered to be a rare resident in the Guadalupe Mountains (TOS 1995), based primarily on a female in breeding condition collected in June 1971 (Oberholser 1974). The only other documented summer record of this species for Texas is an individual collected 29 June 1887 in the Davis Mountains (Oberholser 1974). During the breeding season, Red-naped Sapsuckers are found primarily in pure aspen or mixed aspen-coniferous woodlands and rarely in predominantly coniferous forests (Howell 1952).

The Red-naped Sapsucker is a short distance migrant with some overlap between its breeding and wintering ranges. Its winter range includes much of the southwestern United States south to Durango and Jalisco (AOU 1983). In Texas,

they are fairly common at a variety of elevations and habitats in the Trans-Pecos and have been recorded as far east as Travis and Calhoun counties (TOS 1995). As in Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, the sexes of Red-naped Sapsuckers segregate somewhat during the winter, with the majority of females wintering farther south than the majority of males (Skutch 1985). The vast majority of wintering individuals in Trans-Pecos Texas are male, but both sexes appear to be equally common during fall migration (MWL pers. obs.).

RANGE OF THE RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER

Red-breasted Sapsuckers are found from southeastern Alaska through British Columbia and southward to southern California (AOU 1983). In much of their range, they breed in pure aspen or mixed aspen-coniferous woodlands and humid coastal coniferous forests (Howell 1952). In the extreme southern parts of their range they are found in mixed coniferous woodlands with riparian corridors (K. Garrett pers. comm.). There are two subspecies of Red-breasted Sapsucker, *S. r. ruber* and *S. r. daggetti*. The northern subspecies, *S. r. ruber*, occurs south to Oregon and winters primarily at lower elevations within the breeding range (Howell 1952). The southern subspecies, *S. r. daggetti*, is slightly more migratory and winters chiefly west of the Sierra Nevada and south into northern Baja California (Howell 1952).

Vagrancy in the Red-breasted Sapsucker is rare and many of the extralimital records have involved suspected hybrid individuals. Currently there are no accepted records of Red-breasted Sapsucker in New Mexico (B. Zimmer, pers. comm.). A sapsucker found November 1996 in northwestern Sonora was phenotypically like a Red-breasted Sapsucker and may represent the first record for that state (K. Garrett, pers. comm.).

AREAS OF SYMPATRY BETWEEN THE SPECIES

Red-breasted (*S. r. daggetti*) and Red-naped Sapsuckers are essentially allopatric. However, there are small discontinuous areas of sympatry. These areas of sympatry extending from southern Oregon southward along the California-Nevada border (Johnson and Johnson 1985). Sapsuckers of intermediate phenotype are frequently observed in southern California (K. Garrett, pers. comm.) and the abundance of these individuals suggests that other hybridization zones may exist. The winter range of these hybrids beyond California is not well known.

Johnson and Johnson (1985) determined that assortative mating takes place within these areas of sympatry. They observed 145 breeding pairs, of which 110 pairs were intraspecific, while only nine were interspecific. The remaining 26 pairs included at least one hybrid individual. Their findings established the basis for maintaining these taxa at the species level.

PROBABLE RED-NAPED X RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKERS IN TEXAS

Two probable Red-naped × Red-breasted Sapsuckers from Texas are reported and described here. The first of these was a male photographed at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend National Park, Brewster County, Texas, on 9 November 1991 by the senior author. The bird (referred to as HYB 1) was phenotypically similar to a Red-naped Sapsucker, corresponding with category 6 of Johnson and Johnson's (1985) hybrid index. A second hybrid was found, and sketched in the field,

in the Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis County, Texas on 18 December 1994 by K. Bryan. This individual (HYB 2) had plumage characteristics similar to a Red-breasted Sapsucker, corresponding with category 3 of Johnson and Johnson's (1985) hybrid index.

HYB 1 was discovered foraging in cottonwoods (*Populus* sp.). This individual differed from typical *S. nuchalis* by the extent of red on the head. The red feathering of the throat extended down onto the upper chest leaving a narrow black band below the red. The black malar stripe was almost totally obscured by red. The red on the crown was also more extensive than typical for Red-naped Sapsucker, but did not obscure the white post-ocular stripe (Frontispiece). Small patches of red feathering were obvious in the auriculars. The red coloration of this bird was distinctly lighter than most Red-naped Sapsuckers. The remainder of the bird appeared to be that of a typical Red-naped Sapsucker. It is possible that this individual is a heavily pigmented male Red-naped Sapsucker, but the extensive red on the crown, upper chest, and auriculars suggests a hybrid.

HYB 2 was found in a mixed oak-juniper woodland at an elevation of 1,860 meters. The head of this bird was mostly red with distinct black auriculars (Frontispiece). White nasal tufts and a short, white moustache were present. The red of the throat extended onto the upper chest and was bordered by a distinct black bib and nape. Body plumage did not differ from that of a typical Red-breasted Sapsucker. Johnson and Johnson (1985), in developing their hybrid index, determined that variations in body plumage were strongly influenced by wear and therefore not useful for scoring specimens.

FIRST STATE RECORD FOR TEXAS OF RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER

On 27 February 1996 an apparent Red-breasted Sapsucker was photographed by Ann M. Gordon at a backyard bird bath in southwestern McLennan County. The plumage of this bird appeared typical of *S. ruber*, including the bright red head and chest and the lack of a distinct black breast band separating the red throat from the yellow belly. The white nasal tufts and a short moustache were visible in the photographs. The auriculars were darker than the rest of the head. Close inspection of the photographs suggested *S. r. daggetti* because of a subtle dark breast band typical of that subspecies. Each breast feather of *S. r. daggetti* has a blackish central section and is tipped with red. The result is the suggestion of a breast band (N. Johnson, pers. comm.). Hybrids usually have either complete black breast bands or at least scattered black tipped feathers on the breast (N. Johnson, pers. comm.). Introgression with Red-naped Sapsucker cannot be ruled out with this individual since the bird was not collected; however, these plumage features strongly suggest it was a Red-breasted Sapsucker, and not a hybrid.

The occurrence of Red-breasted Sapsuckers in Texas is unexpected; the above record may provide the first documented instance of vagrancy east of the Rocky Mountains. Due to the migratory nature of Red-naped Sapsuckers, hybrid sapsuckers could be found in their wintering range. Observers should be aware of the potential for Red-breasted Sapsuckers and Red-breasted $\times$ Red-naped hybrids while encountering sapsuckers in the Trans-Pecos of Texas.

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TEXAS BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1996

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This report contains the decisions of the Texas Bird Records Committee (hereafter "TBRC" or "committee") of the Texas Ornithological Society reached during 1996. For information on previous actions of the TBRC, see Arnold (1984, 1985), Lasley (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991), and Haynie (1992a, 1992b, 1993, 1995, 1996). The committee requests and reviews documentation on any record of a TBRC Review List species (see end of report) as well as any record of any species if requested to do so by a member of the TBRC. The committee reached a final decision on 241 records during 1996: 189 records of 58 species were accepted and 52 records of 40 species were not accepted, an acceptance rate of 78% for this report. Included under the accepted category were 37 old records of 10 species pertaining to recently located museum specimens. There were 221 observers who submitted documentation (to the TBRC or to other entities) that was reviewed by the committee during 1996.

With the publishing of the *Fortieth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds* (1996) came 3 taxonomic revisions which added new species to the official Texas state list: Rufous-sided Towhee was divided into two species, Eastern Towhee (common in eastern Texas) and Spotted Towhee (common in western Texas). Sharp-tailed Sparrow was similarly split into Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (accidental in Texas based on 1 extant specimen¹) and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (east Texas migrant and coastal winter resident). Lastly, Northern Oriole was split into Baltimore Oriole (common in eastern Texas) and Bullock's Oriole (common in western Texas). In addition, the TBRC accepted first records of Black-capped Chickadee and Northern Wheat-ear. These actions brought the official Texas state list at the end of 1996 to 598 species in good standing, while the Presumptive Species List (see below) remained at 5 species. Several records which are expected to complete circulation through the TBRC in 1997 will represent new Texas species as well.

The TBRC solicits reports of any species on the Review List as well as any species not previously accepted for Texas. The committee desires written descriptions as well as photographs, video, and audio recordings if available. If anyone has information concerning a Review List species but is unsure how to submit that information please contact any member of the TBRC or contact the committee secretary, Greg Lasley, 305 Loganberry Court, Austin, Texas 78745-6527 (e-mail: glasley@onr.com). For guidelines on preparing rare bird documentation, readers are encouraged to consult "How to Document Rare Birds" (Dittmann and Lasley 1992).

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following *The AOU Checklist of North American Birds* (AOU 1983) as currently supplemented. A

¹ At the end of 1996, efforts were underway to confirm the identification of this specimen currently housed at the Denver Museum of Natural History. In August 1997, the specimen was finally examined and was, in fact, a misidentified Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. This species will be removed from the Texas list with the publishing of the 1997 Texas Bird Records Committee Report.

number in parentheses after the species name represents the total number of accepted records in Texas for that species at the end of 1996. In instances where birds were known to return from previous years, this number will be followed by a slash and a second number. The second number denotes the total number of accepted records if known returnees are excluded. The number(s) will be listed for all species which appear on Review Lists A and C as currently amended (see end of report). However, in this report, numbers will also be listed for Pacific Loon and Glossy Ibis, two species recently removed from Review List A. Within each species the records are listed chronologically. All observers who submitted written documentation or photographs of accepted records are listed by initials. If known, the initials of those who discovered a particular bird are in **boldface** but only if the discoverers submitted a description or facilitated documentation. There has been no attempt to list all observers who saw a particular bird. The TBRC file number of each accepted record will follow the observers' initials. This number consists of the year the record was originally submitted to the committee followed by a hyphen and a number. If photographs or video recordings are on file with the TBRC, the Texas Photo Record File (TPRF) (Texas A&M University) number is also given. If an audio recording of the bird is on file with the TBRC, the Texas Bird Sounds Library (TBSL) (Sam Houston State University) number is also given. Specimen records are denoted with an asterisk (*) followed by the institution where the specimen is housed and the catalog number if available. The information in each account is usually based on the information provided in the original submitted documentation; however, in some cases this information has been supplemented with a full range of dates the bird(s) was present if that information was made available to the TBRC later. All locations in *italics* are counties.

TBRC Membership.—Members of the TBRC during 1996 who participated in decisions listed in this report were: John Arvin, Chair, Keith Arnold, Academician, Greg Lasley, Secretary, Carl Haynie, Mark Lockwood, Martin Reid, Willie Sekula, Chuck Sexton, and Gail Diane Yovanovich. During 1996, Chuck Sexton and Gail Yovanovich retired from the committee, and Terry Maxwell and Barry Zimmer were elected new members. The Chair, Academician and Secretary were all re-elected.

Contributors.—Robin Alexander, Tony Amos, Ben Archer, Keith Arnold, Nina & Eddie Arnold (N&EA), James W. Arterburn (JWA), John Arvin, Michael Austin, Jeffrey Back, Sue Barton (SBa), Giff Beaton, Bob Behrstock, Bernard Benson (BBe), Chris Benesh, Steve Bentsen, Tony Bigg, Peter Billingham, Lorie Black, Lytle H. Blankenship (LHB), David R. Blankinship (DRB), Hazel Bluhm, Doug Booher (DBo), Bill & Sarah Bourbon (B&SB), David Bradford, Daniel M. Brooks (DMB), Tim Brush (TBr), Kelly Bryan, John W. Buckman (JWB), Frank Bumgardner, Oscar Carmona, Geoff Carpentier, Ross & Dawn Carrie (R&DC), David & Barbara Carson (D&BC), C. P. Catley (CPC), Charles T. Clark (CTC), James Clarke, Wendy Connally, Arlie Cooksey, Mel Cooksey, Chris Corben, Cameron Cox (CaC), Robert & Cathy Creed (R&CC), David Dauphin, Eric Ruiz de Velceco (ERdV), Mike Dillon, Robert Duncan, Jon Dunn, Charles Easley, Carol E. Edwards (CEE), Jack Eitniear, Mark Elwonger, Victor Emanuel, Doug Emkalns, Archie Engledow, Ted Eubanks, Virginia Eubanks (VEu), Ben Feltner (BF_e), Frank Fitch, Bennie Flatt (BF₁), Tony & Phyllis Frank (T&PF), Brush Freeman,

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Additional Abbreviations.—AMNH = American Museum of Natural History (New York); AOU = American Ornithologists' Union; APM = Alberta Provincial Museum; BBNP = Big Bend National Park; CU = Cornell University; DMNH = Delaware Museum of Natural History; FM = Farm to Market road; FMNH = Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago); FN = *Field Notes* (National Au-

dubon Society); MM = Memphis Museum; OMNH = Oklahoma Museum of Natural History; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; ROM = Royal Ontario Museum; SNA = State Natural Area; SP = State Park; SR = State Route; TCWC = Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (Texas A&M University); TTU = Texas Tech University (Lubbock); UMMZ = University of Michigan Museum of Zoology; USNM = National Museum of Natural History (Washington, D.C.); UTEP = University of Texas at El Paso; WWF = Welder Wildlife Foundation (Sinton, Texas); YPM = Yale Peabody Museum (Yale University).

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) (25). One was photographed at Surfside, *Brazoria* on 27 April 1994 (TE, JM; 1995-18, TPRF #1321). Two birds were on Lake Comanche, *Comanche* on 4 December 1994 (CH; 1994-179). One was on Lake Tawakoni, *Rains* from 26 December 1994–6 January 1995 (KN, MW, GL, J&BR; 1995-2).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (57). This species was recently removed from the Review List. Up to two birds were on Offat's Bayou in Galveston, *Galveston* from 24 March–16 May 1983 (TE, VEu, BFe; 1992-141). One was on Lake Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* from 16 November–21 December 1986 (CS; 1992-99). One was on Lake O'The Pines, *Marion* from 23 December 1993–15 January 1994 (HB; 1994-21). One adult in breeding plumage was in Rockport, *Aransas* on 9 July 1994 documenting the first accepted summer record for Texas (N&EA; 1994-145). One adult was on Lake Tawakoni, *Rains* from 12–13 November 1994 (RR; 1994-182). One was photographed at Lighthouse Marina on Lake Texoma, *Grayson* on 26 November 1994 (BG; 1994-185, TPRF #1335). Up to two birds were photographed on Lake Balmorhea, *Reeves* during their stay 15 December 1994–25 April 1995 (JG, GL, BM, GDY, JWS; 1995-3, TPRF #1305). One adult was photographed at Texas City, *Galveston* during its stay 16–17 December 1994 (GL; 1994-178, TPRF #1315). One was photographed on McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* on 30 December 1994 (GL, CJ, BZ; 1995-4, TPRF #1313). One was on Copano Bay, *Aransas* from 9–22 November 1995 (BF, PH, ME, CTC; 1995-134).

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) (11). One was at Island View Marina on Lake O'The Pines, *Marion* on 2 January 1995 (MW, KN; 1995-11).

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) (6). One was 66 miles southeast of Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* on 24 June 1995 (DP, GL, BF, FB, ME, PH, PG; 1995-86).

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) (17). Eleven birds, some videotaped, were off Port Mansfield, *Willacy* on 7 August 1993 (DP; 1995-93, TPRF #1378). Twelve to fifteen birds, some photographed, were off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* on 24 September 1994 (DP, GL; 1994-149, TPRF #1300). One was photographed off Port O'Connor on 24 June 1995 (DP, GL, BF, FB, ME; 1995-85, TPRF #1372). Thirty-seven birds, some photographed and videotaped, were off Port O'Connor on 19 August 1995 (DP, RP, BM, GL; 1995-109, TPRF #1420). One old record was accepted after "discovery" of an extant museum specimen: one was collected at Sabine Pass, *Jefferson* on 29 March 1929 (*USNM 300257).

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) (12). A headless specimen lacking most of its tail was found on the beach at Port Aransas, *Nueces* on 20 August 1991 (TA; 1992-113, *TCWC 12818). After four rounds, this troublesome

record was accepted primarily on wing chord measurements and expert analysis (DL). One was photographed 93 miles off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* on 24 September 1994 (DP, GL, ME, SSo; 1994-152, TPRF #1299). Two were photographed 70 miles off Port O'Connor on 24 June 1995 (DP, GL, BF, FB; 1995-83, TPRF #1370).

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) (14). One was videotaped off Port Mansfield, *Willacy* on 7 August 1993 (DP; 1995-94, TPRF #1377). Six birds, some photographed, were 93 miles off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* on 24 September 1994 (DP, GL, ME, SSo; 1994-151, TPRF #1298). Thirty to thirty-two birds, some photographed, were 68–84 miles off Port O'Connor on 24 June 1995 representing the highest single-day tally of the species in Texas waters (DP, GL, BF, FB, ME; 1995-82, TPRF #1369). Eight birds, some photographed, were up to 95 miles off Port O'Connor on 19 August 1995 (DP, RP, BF, BM, GL; 1995-107, TPRF #1418).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) (52). This species was removed from the Review List in 1995, but eleven records submitted before that time completed circulation during 1996. One adult was in Brownsville, *Cameron* on 27 February 1994 (MPaw; 1994-117). One adult was on Bolivar Peninsula, *Galveston* on 16 April 1994 (LSe; 1994-114). One breeding-plumaged adult was at Eagle Mountain Fish Hatchery, *Tarrant* on 7 May 1994 (EW, JWS, MP; 1994-73). Two adults were at Attwater NWR, *Colorado* on 5 September 1994 (GL, CJ; 1994-144). One was photographed near Port Arthur, *Jefferson* on 13 November 1994 (JAW; 1994-170, TPRF #1312). One was near the intersection of SR 124 and FM 1985, *Chambers* on 13 March 1995 (BB; 1995-72). One breeding-plumaged adult was at Flour Bluff, *Nueces* from 10 April–29 May 1995 (AC, MC; 1995-89). Two breeding-plumaged adults were at Sabine Pass, *Jefferson* on 21 April 1995 (BB; 1995-73). One was in west *Harris* county on 21 April 1995 (TE, JM; 1995-98). Up to four birds, one of which was photographed, were 8 miles south of Port Lavaca, *Calhoun* from 21 April–29 May 1995 (GL, BF, PH; 1995-58, TPRF #1365). Two birds were in east Ft. Worth, *Tarrant* on 4 May 1995 (JWS; 1995-59).

Brant (*Branta bernicla*) (14). One was at Lake Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* on 27 January 1994 (JZ; 1994-58). One (*B. b. nigricans*) was photographed in Lubbock, *Lubbock* on 25 November 1994 (HB, KN; 1994-174, TPRF #1314). One was at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* on 8 January 1995 (JHe; 1995-9). One was at Port Aransas, *Nueces/Aransas* on 15 January 1995 (PH; 1995-10). One (*B. b. hrota*) was near Katy, *Harris* from 21 February–5 March 1995 (T&PF, BF, DB, J&WR; 1995-20).

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) (6). One old record was accepted after “discovery” of an extant museum specimen: one was collected at High Island, *Chambers* on 23 December 1916 (*AMNH 350531).

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) (2). One drake was found sick at the Presidio sewage lagoons, *Presidio* on 29 April 1994 only to be collected later on 6 May 1994 when it was found dead (AW, GL, BM, GDY, ML; 1994-77, TPRF #1296, *TCWC 13170). A photograph documenting this second record for Texas was published in *FN* 48:961.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) (20). All of the following records were of photographed males. One was at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* from 1 No-

vember 1994–23 January 1995 (RSc, BM, KJW, WS, MPaw, LL, CH, ERdV, MG; 1994-169, TPRF #1311). One was at Lake Marvin, *Hemphill* from 23–30 November 1994 (GL, CJ, KS; 1994-171, TPRF #1306). One was in Amarillo, *Potter* from 20 December 1994–11 March 1995 (EK, KS, TJ, JJ, T&PF, BF; 1995-7, TPRF #1330). One was at Fort Hancock, *Hudspeth* and later at Tornillo Reservoir, *El Paso* from 17 January–18 February 1995 (BZ, ML, WS; 1995-38, TPRF #1331). One was on the King Ranch, *Kleberg* on 24 February 1995 (JG; 1995-67, TPRF #1358).

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) (2). Two birds, a male and female, were at the spillway on Lake Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* on 5 January 1995 furnishing only the second accepted record for Texas (MW; 1995-12). Three old coastal reports cited by Oberholser remain unsubmitted.

Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominica*) (42). One was at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 8 November 1992 (SSw; 1992-148). One was at Aransas NWR, *Aransas* on 17 December 1993 (LB; 1994-33). Two birds were photographed at Brazoria NWR, *Brazoria* on 3 April 1994 (JWB; 1994-78, TPRF #1323). Up to two birds, a male and female, were photographed at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* during their stay 20 April–30 July 1994 (BM; 1994-72, TPRF #1292). Up to twenty-four birds (14 adults and 10 young), some photographed, were at Attwater NWR, *Colorado* from 29 July–4 December 1994 furnishing a first nesting record for the refuge (JHo, GL, ML; 1994-143, TPRF #1302). Up to six birds were at Brazos Bend SP, *Fort Bend* from 19 November 1994–15 May 1995 (J&WR, RT, JAW, FB, GDY, R&DC, CE, JW; 1995-28, TPRF #1324). A photograph documenting this record was published in *FN* 49:166. One was photographed at Brazoria NWR on 18 December 1994 (PDH, GL; 1995-15, TPRF #1319). Four were in Sinton, *San Patricio* on 25 December 1994 (MQG; 1995-5). One was photographed at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* on 25 February 1995 (DD; 1995-63, TPRF #1357). Up to four birds were at Santa Ana NWR from “May to September” 1995 (TB, BM, SB; 1995-103).

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) (7). One adult was in Gillette, *Karnes* on 16 March 1994 (JGa; 1994-66, TPRF #1338). A photograph documenting this 6th record for Texas was published in *FN* 48:961. One immature was near Klondike, *Delta* on 18 March 1995 (MW, GLu; 1995-91).

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) (6). One light morph adult was at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 4 October 1994 (BZ; 1994-162). One light morph bird was at Lost Maples SNA, *Bandera* from 24 May–16 June 1995 (DBo, DSu, KH, GO, BA, JMu, BF, B&JR; 1995-71). One dark morph immature was photographed at Santa Ana NWR on 30 May 1995 providing a first record for this morph in Texas (BW; 1995-76, TPRF #1366). One light morph, sub-adult bird was near Dripping Springs, *Hays* on 6 June 1995, documenting the northernmost Texas record (JPG; 1995-78).

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) (25). One adult was at Welder Refuge, *San Patricio* from 20 December 1974–March 1975 (WR, GW; 1992-108). Two old records were accepted after “discovery” of extant museum specimens: One was collected in Brownsville, *Cameron* on 29 April 1889 (*USNM 116752). One was collected in Brownsville on 24 July 1891 (*USNM 141059).

Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) (16). Three old records were accepted after “discovery” of extant museum specimens: One was collected on Padre Island,

Nueces on 8 March 1877 (*AMNH 80026). One was collected in Gainesville, *Cooke* on 17 March 1880 (*FMNH 2143). One was collected in Brownsville, *Cameron* on 13 March 1894 (*MM 660).

Surfbird (*Aphriza virgata*) (7). One breeding-plumaged adult was on North Padre Island, *Kleberg* from 15–21 April 1994 (AC, MC, GS, GDY, CH, BM, GL; 1994-67, TPRF #1291). A photograph documenting this 5th record for Texas was published in *FN* 48:961. One in near breeding plumage was in Fulton, *Aransas* from 10–15 April 1995 (ME, T&PF, J&EM, SMa, MC, AC, CWS; 1995-41, TPRF #1333). A photograph documenting this record was published in *FN* 49: 275. One was photographed at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* during its stay 18–21 April 1995 (PL, DD, DE, BN, CPC; 1995-61, TPRF #1356).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (20/17). One female-plumaged bird was photographed in east Fort Worth, *Tarrant* during its stay 29–30 April 1995 (MR, JeM, CH; 1995-57, TPRF #1364).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) (9). One juvenile was at Kirby Lake in Abilene, *Taylor* during its stay 4–18 September 1993 (GH, LB, TW, AV; 1994-61, TPRF #1288). A photograph documenting this 9th record for Texas was published in *FN* 48:129.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) (6). One first-winter bird was photographed in San Antonio, *Bexar* during its stay 10–30 December 1994 and again 19 February–12 March 1995 (WS, GL, BF, BM, CWS, J&EM, J&BR; 1994-177, TPRF #1307).

California Gull (*Larus californicus*) (33). One adult was at Lake Texoma near Pottsboro, *Grayson* on 5 November 1994 (RR; 1994-168). Up to two birds, one in first-winter plumage, were in Austin, *Travis* from 29 December 1994–8 March 1995 (BF, J&BR, PS; 1995-6). Up to two birds, one in third-winter plumage were photographed in San Antonio, *Bexar* during their stay 2 January–18 February 1995 (WS, J&BR; 1995-36, TPRF #1328). One first-winter bird was photographed in Austin on 4 March 1995 (BF, PH, WS, J&BR; 1995-26, TPRF #1326). One first-year bird was in Arlington, *Tarrant* on 1 April 1995 (MR; 1995-50).

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) (24). One photographed adult was at Mustang and North Padre Islands, *Nueces* from 1–19 December 1993 (CC, LH, B&JS; 1994-63, TPRF #1334). One first-winter bird was photographed on South Padre Island, *Cameron* during its stay 20 February–1 March 1994 (MPaw; 1994-116, TPRF #1436). One first-winter bird was photographed at Cooper Lake, *Hopkins & Delta* during its stay 23 December 1994–28 February 1995 (MW, KN, HB; 1995-39, TPRF #1332). **Note:** An additional report, while unaccepted as Thayer's Gull, was accepted by the committee as "Thayer's/Iceland Gull" (see Thayer's Gull under Unaccepted Records).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) (72/59). One third-year bird was photographed on Mustang Island, *Nueces* on 14 December 1993 (CC, LH; 1994-68, TPRF #1339). One adult was photographed at the Brownsville landfill, *Cameron* on 7 January 1994 (TL; 1994-65, TPRF #1290). One second-winter bird was at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 15 October 1994 (J&WR; 1994-164). One adult was photographed at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* on 23 January 1995 (GDY; 1995-30, TPRF #1325). One first-winter bird was photographed in San Antonio, *Bexar* during its stay 17 February–4 March 1995 (WS, J&BR; 1995-37, TPRF #1329). Up to four birds, some photographed, were at the Brownsville landfill from 18 February–24 April 1995 (JG, SR; 1995-68, TPRF #1359). One first-

winter bird was photographed in Austin, *Travis* during its stay 4–15 March 1995 (BF, PH, WS, J&BR; 1995-25, TPRF #1322). One adult was in Seadrift, *Calhoun* from 7 November–26 February 1996 (BF, PH; 1995-135).

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) (63). One first-year bird was photographed at Sea Rim SP, *Jefferson* on 16 April 1988 (JWA; 1994-69, TPRF #1337). One first-year bird was in Galveston, *Galveston* on 25 November 1993 (RU; 1994-57). One second-year bird was photographed 6 miles east of the SR 124 & 87 intersection in *Jefferson* on 24 April 1994 (GDY, BL, SBa, PSv, AE; 1994-75, TPRF #1294). One second-year bird was photographed at San Luis Pass, *Galveston/Brazoria* during its stay 24–27 April 1994 (GL, CJ, JM; 1994-74, TPRF #1293). One second-year bird was at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* on 21 April 1995 (TE, JM; 1995-97, TPRF #1373). One second-year bird was on Matagorda Peninsula, *Matagorda* from 22–23 October 1995 (PH, BF; 1995-128). One first-year bird was photographed 7 miles east of High Island, *Jefferson* on 20 April 1996 (JD; 1996-110, TPRF #1423).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) (19/15). One adult was photographed on Mustang Island, *Nueces* on 14 December 1993 (CC, LH; 1994-59, TPRF #1340).

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) (45). One first-winter bird at Rollover Pass, *Galveston* on 10 September 1995 was very early (JAW; 1995-117). The next earliest fall record for Texas is 28 October. One first-winter bird was photographed in Galveston, *Galveston* on 8 January 1996 (RPe; 1996-96, TPRF #1422).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) (40). Unless otherwise noted; all records were of juvenal-plumaged birds. One was at Calaveras Lake, *Bexar* on 17 September 1994 (WS; 1994-161). One adult was at Lake Grapevine, *Tarrant/Denton* from 30 September–1 October 1994 (EW, MP; 1994-157) providing one of the few records of an adult in Texas. One in first-alternate plumage was photographed at McNary Reservoir, *Hudspeth* on 6 May 1995 (JD, DSh; 1995-70, TPRF #1361). The latter provided the first accepted spring record for Texas. One juvenal-plumaged bird with possibly two adults were at Imperial Reservoir, *Pecos* from 10–12 September 1995 (BP; 1995-111). One was at Lake O'The Pines, *Marion* from 23–26 September 1995 (GLu, MD, PHa, CaC, HB; 1995-113). One was photographed in Odessa, *Ector* during its stay 27 September–1 October 1995 (CTW, FW, DSm; 1995-116, TPRF #1435). One was photographed near Longview, *Harrison* on 2 October 1995 (GLu; 1995-131, TPRF #1440). One was photographed at Lake Tawakoni, *Rains* on 29 August 1996 (MW; 1996-116, TPRF #1444).

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) (15). Twenty birds, some photographed, were 90 miles off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* on 24 September 1994 (DP, GL; 1994-150, TPRF #1297). Three birds were photographed 60–80 miles off Port O'Connor on 24 June 1995 (DP, GL, BF, FB, ME; 1995-84, TPRF #1371). Twelve birds, some photographed and videotaped, were over 70 miles off Port O'Connor on 19 August 1995 (DP, ML, BF, BM, GL; 1995-108, TPRF #1419).

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) (15). One was at Boot Springs in BBNP, *Brewster* on 4 September 1993 (GK; 1993-118).

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) (19). One immature was in Conroe, *Montgomery* from 14–17 July 1994 (PDH, 1994-147). One adult was photographed in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* during its stay 6 May–25 June 1995 (VS, JS,

GS, PP, JD, AC, MC, ME; 1995-60, TPRF #1374). One sub-adult was audiotaped at Sandy Creek in northwest *Travis* during its stay 16 June–8 July 1995 (**J&SN, GL, BF, RP, CWS, FB, BLy, ML, J&BR;** 1995-81, TPRF #1367, TBSL #203-16). A photograph documenting this record was published in *FN* 49:950. One was photographed at Lost Maples SNA, *Bandera* during its stay 5–6 July 1995 (**PGr, RH, ML;** 1995-100, TPRF #1376). One sub-adult was videotaped and photographed in McDade, *Bastrop* during its stay 12–30 July 1995 (**D&BC, BF, GL, J&BR;** 1995-95, TPRF #1368).

Green-breasted Mango (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) (4). One immature was photographed at Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* during its stay 18–20 August 1993 (**TBr, KM;** 1994-13, TPRF #1336).

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) (21/20). One adult male was mist-netted at Dolan Falls Ranch Preserve, *Val Verde* on 18 April 1993; while being extracted, the bird succumbed to heat and was collected (**EJ;** 1994-166, TPRF #1309, *APM Z-93-9-11). One adult male was in Nursery, *Victoria* on 17 April 1994 (**GG;** 1994-71). One adult female returned for its second year at Buchanan Dam, *Llano* where it was audiotaped during its stay 2 October 1994–7 April 1996 (**J&BM, GL, CS;** 1994-159, TBSL #216-05). One adult male was photographed at Cranfills Gap, *Bosque* during its stay 21 March–2 April 1995 providing a first for North Central Texas (**R&CC, CE, JMu;** 1995-74, TPRF #1362). One adult male was photographed in Mertzon, *Irion* during its stay 20–28 April 1995 providing a first for the Concho Valley (**TT, DGT;** 1995-69, TPRF #1360).

White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*) (7). One adult male was photographed in El Paso, *El Paso* during its stay 12–20 October 1994 (**EvM, BZ, DE, BN;** 1994-163, TPRF #1308). Two immatures or females were 16 miles west southwest of Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* on 27 August 1995 (**BF;** 1995-110).

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) (5). This species is very difficult to confirm in Texas, especially in light of recently confirmed specimen examples of green-backed adult male Rufous Hummingbirds. Courtship flight would be diagnostic, although it is doubtful this display would ever be observed in Texas. While hand-held measurements or collection of tail feathers may prove to be the only likely means by which to confirm the species here, the following two sight records were accepted by the committee for various reasons. One adult male was in Houston, *Harris* on 11 January 1993 (**JD;** 1993-69). The reporting observer related his impression of tail feather shape upon seeing full frame photographs (unsubmitted) of the spread tail. One to two adult males were near Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* from 26 July–5 August 1994 (**JPG;** 1994-132).

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) (25). One adult was in Lubbock, *Lubbock* on 10 October 1995 (**DSt;** 1995-129).

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) (6). One was at Hogan Park in Midland, *Midland* on 3 September 1994 (**DH, RMS, FW;** 1994-160). One was photographed at Government Spring in BBNP, *Brewster* during its stay 7–8 May 1995 (**CB, EiM;** 1995-75, TPRF #1363).

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) (8). At least two birds were audiotaped and photographed in Brownsville, *Cameron* where they've remained since 31 December 1993 (**BM, N&EA, GL;** 1994-62, TPRF #1289, TBSL #216-02). Two birds were audiotaped in Harlingen, *Cameron* on 13 August 1996 (**OC;**

1996-123, TBSL #203-17). Several birds, documented since 1994, continued to be present at Rancho Viejo, *Cameron*. Still others, documented since 1991, continued to be present at two other locations in *Cameron*.

Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) (12). One adult was photographed at Rio Grande Village, BBNP, *Brewster* on 30 July 1995 (BZ, VE; 1995-96, TPRF #1375).

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) (8). One adult was at Tivoli, *Refugio* on 8 October 1958 (MMc, EWi; 1995-125) based on a written report which was only recently uncovered and reviewed. This record had previously been listed as "Accepted" on account of a reported, but now lost, photograph held at Welder Refuge (photo "WWF P-26", FN 13:47, Oberholser 1974).

Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) (18/15). Two old records were accepted after "discovery" of extant museum specimens: Two birds were collected in McAllen, *Hidalgo* on 29 December 1948 (*DMNH 47529 & 47530), and another was collected at the same location the following day (*DMNH 46536).

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) (9). One old record was accepted after "discovery" of an extant museum specimen: One was collected in Alpine, *Brewster* on 12 November 1972 (*UTEP 443).

Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) (1). One was collected in El Paso, *El Paso* on 10 April 1881 as evidenced by the recent "discovery" (DS, GL, KA) of an extant museum specimen (CKW; 1995-34, TPRF #1327, *YPM 9723). It furnished a first record for Texas (at least four other specimens from the 1800s remain unlocated). Today, the species occurs regularly around Albuquerque and has been seen as close as Animas Creek, New Mexico, 90 miles from the Texas border (*fide* BZ).

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (1). One female or immature was at Laguna Atascosa NWR, *Cameron* from 1–6 November 1994 (KT, T&PF, HvS, DB, GL, JPG, CEE, JA, MPaw, J&BR, BM; 1994-165, TPRF #1310). A photograph documenting this first record for Texas was published in FN 49:70.

Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) (45). One singing male was at La Joya, *Hidalgo* on 16 July 1994 (TBr; 1995-42). One adult was in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* from 16–22 March 1995 (AC, GS; 1995-43). One singing male was in Salineno, *Starr* from 25 April–6 May 1995 (BB; 1995-66). One was along the Jaguarundi Trail in Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* on 16 June 1995 (TBr; 1995-105).

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*) (5). One old record was accepted after "discovery" of an extant museum specimen: One was collected at Palo Duro Canyon, *Randall* on 26 December 1936 (*USNM 597272).

Gray Silky-flycatcher (*Ptilogonys cinereus*) (2). One male was in El Paso, *El Paso* from 12 January–5 March 1995 (DE, BN, BZ, GM, J&BR, JD, PG, DB, P&TF, J&EM, GDY, ML, FB, TL, PS; 1995-13, TPRF #1320). Photographs documenting this second record for the U.S. were published in FN 49:168 and in the 15 January edition of the El Paso Times. A drought and crop failure in the species native range may have contributed to the bird's appearance.

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) (11/10). One old record was accepted after "discovery" of an extant museum specimen: One was collected in Ingleside, *San Patricio* on 10 May 1966 (*AMNH 786690).

Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*) (11). One was at Packery Channel County Park, *Nueces* on 24 April 1995 (AC; 1995-90).

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*) (38). Eighteen old records were accepted after "discovery" of extant museum specimens: Sixteen of them were collected in Brownsville, *Cameron* between 10 June 1892 and 25 May 1894 (*AMNH 760095 & 760096; *UMMZ 194474; *USNM 128486 & 128487, 129348-129351, 129401-129405 & 151988; *ROM 113406). One was collected in *Cameron* county on 3 May 1894 (*CU 16815) as was another on 16 May 1894 (*FMNH 6567).

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) (9). One adult was photographed near Willow Lake in Santa Ana NWR, *Hidalgo* during its stay 8 November 1995–mid January 1996 (LG, BF, PH, LEM, JMu, JG, KW, GL, AKS, JDK, MA; 1995-133, TPRF #1443).

Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) (11). One adult was at Park Chalk Bluff, northwest of Uvalde, *Uvalde* from 20 April–early August 1995 (BFI, JPG, MC, AC, J&EM, T&PF, GL, BF, FB; 1995-55). One adult was at Dolan Falls Ranch Preserve, *Val Verde* on 30 August 1995 (WC; 1995-130).

Olive Warbler (*Peucedramus taeniatus*) (4). One immature was at Big Bend Ranch, *Presidio* on 7 September 1994 (JPG, CEE, KB; 1994-146). One adult male was at Lake MacKenzie in Tule Canyon, *Briscoe* on 30 April 1995 (GWh; 1995-65).

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) (18). Seven old records were accepted after "discovery" of extant museum specimens: One was collected in Rio Grande City, *Starr* in the winter of 1880 (*AMNH 83460). One was collected in Boquillas, *Brewster* on 21 May 1935 (*CU 19451). Three separate birds were collected at Muleshoe NWR, *Bailey* on 27 November 1976 (*OMNH 11361), 18 January 1977 (*OMNH 11570), and 19 January 1977 (*OMNH 11571), respectively. One was collected in *Kent* on 12 March 1978 (*TTU 3703). One was collected in *Lubbock* on 23 September 1980 (*TTU 3895).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). This species was removed from the Review List in 1994, but one record submitted before that time recently completed circulation. Two birds were in west *Harris* county on 2 March 1982 (TG; 1993-40).

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) (17/16). One immature was photographed in Boquillas Canyon, BBNP, *Brewster* on 15 January 1974 (RW, LM; 1994-156, TPRF #1301). One adult was photographed at Hueco Tanks SP, *El Paso* after returning for another winter there 23 October 1994–16 April 1995 (RR, GL, BM, GM, T&PF, FB, JD, BZ, PS; 1994-183, TPRF #1303). One adult was in Uvalde, *Uvalde* on 31 January 1995 (LHB; 1995-64).

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) (4). One adult male was at the junction of FM 1351 and Wilkinson road, *Goliad* on 5 March 1993 (RW; 1993-56). One male with a possible female were in Matagorda, *Matagorda* on 26 March 1995 (BF; 1995-44).

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. It is quite uncommon for a record to not be accepted because the bird was obviously misidentified. More commonly, a record is unaccepted because the material sub-

mitted was incomplete, insufficient, superficial, or just too vague to properly document the reported occurrence while eliminating *all* other similar species. Also, written documentation or descriptions prepared *entirely from memory* weeks, months, or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably. It is important that the simple act of not accepting a particular record should by no means indicate that the TBRC or any of its members feels the record did not occur as reported. The non-acceptance of any record simply reflects the opinion of the TBRC that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the rigorous standards appropriate for adding data to the formal historical record. The TBRC makes every effort to be as fair and objective as possible regarding each record. If the committee is unsure about any particular record, it prefers to err on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted to the committee if additional substantive material is presented.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). One (1992-145) at Texas City, *Galveston* from 26 December 1981–28 February 1982.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). One (1995-8) on Lake O'The Pines, *Marion* on 2 January 1995.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhynchos*). One (1995-23) off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* on 9 January 1995.

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*). One (1994-94) photographed off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* on 28 May 1994 was rejected after two rounds after photo enlargements and further review indicated it was most likely a Black-capped Petrel. This record has since been resubmitted as *Pterodroma hasitata*, a species which would represent a new addition to the Texas list if accepted.

Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*). One (1993-74) in *Galveston, Galveston* on 1 May 1993.

Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*). One "pink" bird (1995-118) at Mad Island Marsh, *Matagorda* on 19 December 1994 may have been an escaped captive but was poorly described.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). One (1994-11) at Anahuac NWR, *Chambers* on 25 November 1993. Two to three (1994-29) at Anahuac NWR on 31 December 1993.

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). One (1995-45) poorly documented individual at Brazoria NWR, *Brazoria* from 21 November 1994–20 January 1995 was described as having a black plastic leg band on its right leg. Many committee members felt a similarly tagged Tundra Swan could not be eliminated from either the description or the available photographs.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). One male (1994-155) in Austin, *Travis* on 20–21 October 1994 was thought by several committee members to be a hybrid American/Eurasian Wigeon.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*). One (1994-148) at Boca Chica, *Cameron* on 21 April 1994.

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*). One (1995-112) at Park Chalk Bluff, *Uvalde* on 16 August 1995.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). Two "adults" (1995-119) in *Cameron* county on 20 December 1994. One "immature" (1995-120) in *LaSalle* county on 22 December 1994. While not a review species, December-January reports of

Swainson's Hawks will continue to be rigorously reviewed (see Review List B at the end of this report). To date, very few valid winter records exist for this species anywhere in the U.S., and most have been of immature birds.

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*). One "tawny-phase adult" (1995-124) near Bentsen SP, *Hidalgo* on 12 March 1994 obviously pertained to a different bird than the light morph individual documented at Bentsen during January and February of that year. The committee felt the written details, as submitted, were insufficient to document a second U.S. record.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*). One (1995-114) near Dawn, *Deaf Smith* on 8 September 1995.

Skua species (*Catharacta sp.*). One (1995-127) at South Padre Island, *Cameron* on 9 July 1988, while suggestive, did not eliminate Pomarine Jaeger as a possibility.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). One adult (1993-63) in Victoria, *Victoria* on 2 February 1993. One immature (1994-173) at Lake Buchanan, *Llano* on 13 November 1994. Thirty adults (1994-184) at Red Bluff Lake, *Loving* on 4 December 1994.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). One first- or second-year bird (1994-76) in *Jefferson* county on 24 April 1994 was accepted by the committee as a "Thayer's/Iceland Gull". Should the AOU rule these two species are in fact one, as some taxonomists believe, this record will be moved to the Accepted category.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*). One immature bird (1995-122) on Sundown Island, *Calhoun* on 1 June 1994 was suggestive, but many committee members felt the documentation was inconclusive.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). One first-year bird (1993-99) at Bolivar Flats, *Galveston* on 24 April 1993. One adult (1994-154) at Bolivar Flats on 27 December 1993. One first-winter bird (1994-55) on South Padre Island, *Cameron* on 26 February 1994. One first-winter bird (1994-91) at Indian Point, *San Patricio* on 27 February 1994. One (1994-102) near McFaddin NWR, *Jefferson* on 27 March 1995.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). One immature (1994-86) at Rollover Pass, *Galveston* on 23 April 1994.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). One first-year bird (1995-80) at San Luis Pass, *Galveston* on 21 April 1995.

Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*). One adult (1994-140) off Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* on 23 July 1994.

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*). One "female" (1994-54) near La Joya, *Hidalgo* on 13 February 1994 was suggestive but the details were considered by many to be inconclusive.

Gray-headed Dove (*Leptotila rufaxilla*). One (1994-158) below Falcon Dam, *Starr* on 30 September 1994. Identification of this bird was based primarily on soft part coloration, however, soft part colors are variable and can change hormonally in *Leptotila* doves (*fide* JA). In addition, this species frequents wet foothill forest, not lowland riparian growth like that found below Falcon Dam.

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*). One (1995-14) in Grand Prairie, *Dallas* on 9 October 1994.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird (*Amazilia violiceps*). One (1994-153) at Big Bend Ranch, *Presidio* on 24 March 1994.

Plain-capped Starthroat (*Helimaster constantii*). One (1995-132) in BBNP, *Brewster* on 23 November 1993.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). One or two (1994-180) in Rose, *Deaf Smith* on 30 November 1994.

Gila Woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*). One (1995-24) in El Paso, *El Paso* from 16-18 February 1995 was very suggestive yet insufficiently documented for a species unrecorded in Texas.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*). One (1995-88) at Park Chalk Bluff, *Uvalde* on 21 June 1995. Three (1995-102) at Fort Clark Springs, *Kinney* on 18 July 1995.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*). One (1995-49) at BBNP, *Brewster* on 13 November 1991.

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*). One (1995-56) at Galveston Island SP, *Galveston* on 15 April 1995 was suggestive yet insufficiently described for a species unrecorded in the U.S.

Bridled Titmouse (*Parus wollweberi*). One (1995-54) at BBNP, *Brewster* on 8 March 1995.

Black-capped Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila nigriceps*). Two (1995-101) at BBNP, *Brewster* on 5 June 1995.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*). One (1995-22) in Tehuacana, *Limestone* on 15 February 1995.

Hooded Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis nelsoni*). One (1994-176) photographed at BBNP, *Brewster* on 28 & 29 September 1994. One (1995-53) at Adolf Thomae County Park, *Cameron* on 7 April 1995. Neither the photographs nor the reports eliminated local races of Common Yellowthroat, a species whose variability in plumage due to race, age, and sex is often unappreciated.

Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis poliocephala*). One (1995-121) in Zapata county on 2 June 1995. This species is extremely difficult to confirm in Texas without audio recordings or detailed measurements to back up reports.

Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*). One (1995-46) in BBNP, *Brewster* on 24 October 1994.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). One (1995-126) at Falcon SP, *Starr* on 27 April 1979. One (1995-77) at BBNP, *Brewster* from 23-25 May 1995.

Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*). One (1995-35) in BBNP, *Brewster* on 20 September 1986, while suggestive, did not rule out a winter-plumaged Hooded Oriole. One (1994-134) photographed below Falcon Dam, *Starr* on 17 December 1993 was very suggestive (the photograph seemed to indicate a heavily streaked back) but the photo was poor and most of the bird was obscured by foliage.

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TBRC REVIEW LISTS

The TBRC Review Lists constitute all species for which documentation is requested. The committee also requests details on any record of a species not yet accepted on the Texas List. As of this writing, the following changes have been made to Review Lists A, B, C, and the Presumptive Species List since they were published in the *Texas Bird Records Committee Report for 1995* (Haynie 1996): Pacific Loon, Audubon's Shearwater, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Glossy Ibis, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Bridled Tern were moved from Review List A to Review List B. Collared Forest-Falcon, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Kelp Gull, Roseate Tern, Ruddy Quail-Dove, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Wheatear, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, and Flame-colored Tanager were added to Review List A. Murre *species* was added to the Presumptive Species List.

RECENT NESTING AND CURRENT STATUS OF RED-BILLED PIGEON ALONG THE LOWER RIO GRANDE IN SOUTHERN TEXAS

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ABSTRACT.—Once common in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, the Red-billed Pigeon is now a rare breeder. Field work by canoe and on foot during 1993–1996 and analysis of other records revealed the continued existence of a small population extending from the McAllen area to upstream of Laredo. At least 10 nests were found, mainly between Falcon Dam and Roma, primarily on islands in the Rio Grande. Up to 30 Red-billed Pigeons were present during April–September, and nests were active from 9 May–20 August. Maintenance of existing high-quality riparian habitat and restoration of deteriorated forest will probably be necessary to retain Red-billed Pigeons as a nesting species in Texas.

The Red-billed Pigeon (*Columba flavirostris*), a species ranging from the Lower Rio Grande Valley (consisting of Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy and Starr Cos.) of South Texas to Costa Rica (AOU 1983), has declined dramatically in the United States during the 20th century (Oberholser 1974). One hundred fifty pairs of Red-billed Pigeons nested at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in 1953, but by the 1970's only 0–5 pairs nested there (Oberholser 1974, Webster 1974, Gehlbach 1987). Apparently no field work was done along the Rio Grande in Starr Co. until the 1970s, when single nests were located in trees overhanging the Rio Grande just below Falcon Dam (Webster 1973, 1978). A nest recorded below Falcon Dam, Starr Co., in 1978 may have been misidentified, as it contained 4 eggs (Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Program). Very small numbers of singing males have been recorded along the Rio Grande in Starr and Hidalgo Co. in recent years (G. Waggenerman, pers. comm.). Currently, the Red-billed Pigeon is considered to be a "rare to uncommon summer resident in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, very rare upriver to Maverick Co., and along the coast to Kenedy Co." (Texas Ornithological Society 1995). The closest known population in Mexico is along the Rio Corona, central Tamaulipas *municipio* of Padilla, 206 mi. (330 km) south of the LRGV, (Gehlbach 1987).

During 1993–1996, I found seven Red-billed Pigeon nests along the Rio Grande between Falcon Dam and Roma, and one nest in Hidalgo Co. near Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park (Fig. 1). I also received reports of at least two additional nests in Hidalgo Co. in 1993 (C. and L. Gambill, pers. comm.) and observed additional evidence of breeding.

Field work was done by canoe below Falcon Dam, in Starr Co.: I made 21 trips, each covering about 17 miles (27.5 km) of the Rio Grande between Chap-eño, about 4.5 miles (7.2 km) downstream from Falcon Dam, and Fronton, about 5.4 miles (8.6 km) upstream from Roma, during March–November 1993–1996. Nests were located opportunistically, by seeing adults sitting on nests or flushing, while doing general bird surveys. In Hidalgo Co., most field work was done on

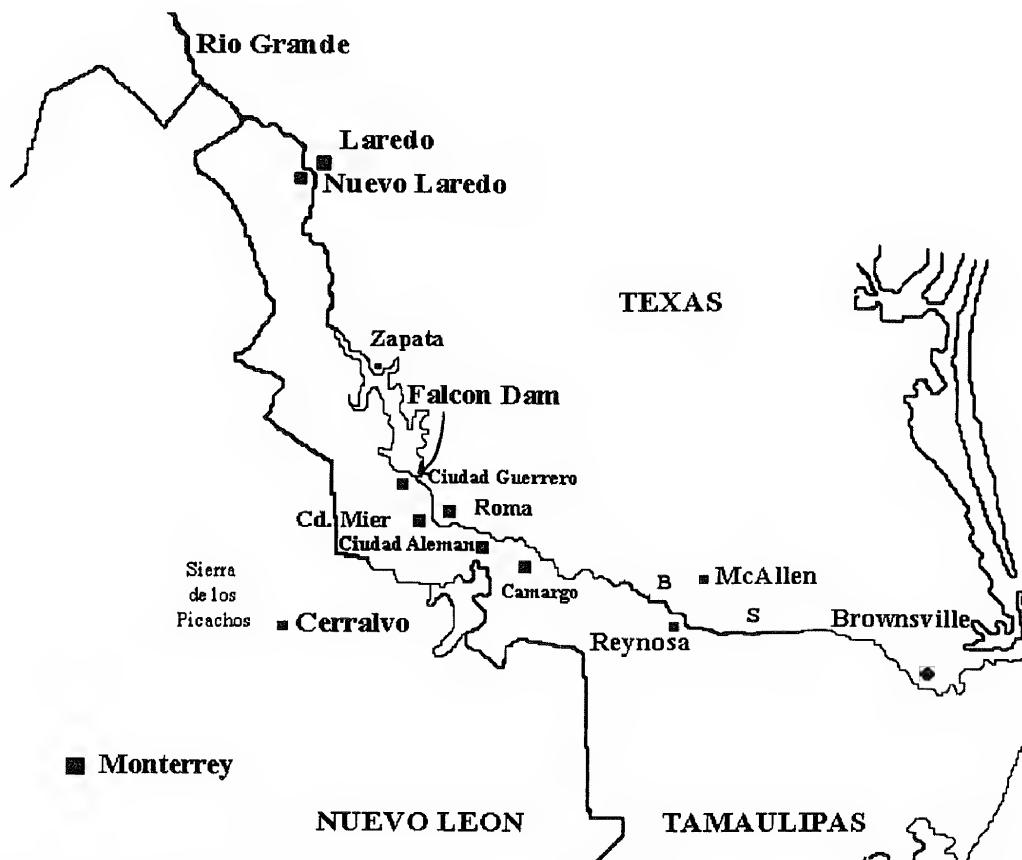


Fig. 1. Area of southern Texas, northern Tamaulipas and northeastern Nuevo Leon, Mexico, showing locations where the study was conducted and other locations mentioned in the text. Most Red-billed Pigeon nests were found along the Rio Grande between Falcon Dam and Roma, in Starr Co., Texas, or in the *municipio* of Mier, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Field work was also conducted in and near Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park (B on map) and in Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge (S on map), Hidalgo Co., Texas.

foot, with regular field work at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, during multi-species studies focusing on Altamira Orioles (*Icterus gularis*), Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets (*Camptostoma imberbe*) and Tropical Parulas (*Parula pitiayumi*). In addition, I made 4 canoe trips in 1993–1994 only, covering 15 miles (24 km) of the Rio Grande centered on Santa Ana, between the Pharr-Reynosa bridge site and the Donna Canal Intake. Since so little is known of recent Red-billed Pigeon nesting in the USA, the following paragraphs summarize nesting dates, locations, and contents, as well as additional evidence of breeding activity for Red-billed Pigeons in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of the U.S. and adjacent Tamaulipas, Mexico.

RESULTS

Nests found in Starr Co. and adjacent Tamaulipas, Mexico—The first Red-billed Pigeon nest was found on 7 August 1993. It contained one egg (typical of completed clutches for this species; Dickey and Van Rossem 1938), and was 3 m up in a retama (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) on the riverbank, on the U.S. side. This was the only nest in this area not found on an island. On 9 July 1994, a large

nestling was observed in a nest 5 m up in a retama, on the U.S. side. On 20 August 1994, an adult was flushed from a nest 3 m up in a Mexican ash (*Fraxinus berlandieriana*) on the Mexican side. The adult feigned injury as it flew off, but the contents could not be seen due to dense nesting material and an inaccessible nest over the river. Similarly, an adult flushed and injury-feigned from a nest 11 m up in a Mexican ash on 10 June 1995, on the U.S. side. Three nests were found in 1996: On 9 May 1996, an adult sat tightly on a nest 10 m up in a Mexican ash on the Mexican side. An adult sat tightly on the same nest on 25 May 1996. An egg with a pinkish tint was seen in a nest on 8 June, 9 m up in a Mexican ash on the Mexican side. This egg had been probably been laid within 24 hours before I saw it, based on the pinkish tint of fresh eggs which soon fades (Baicich and Harrison 1997). Also on 8 June, an adult sat tightly on a different nest 9 m up in a Mexican ash on the Mexican side. These nests could not be revisited frequently enough to determine if they were successful.

Nests found in Hidalgo Co.—In 1993, two nests were seen in Hidalgo Co. (C. and L. Gambill, pers. comm.). They were 4 and 4.5 m up, respectively, in different black willow (*Salix nigra*) trees, 0.5 km west of Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. Adults were seen sitting on the nests in June but no specific dates were recorded. A third nest was inferred in July 1993 from observations of adults frequently carrying nesting material and small fruits to another location, about 65 m downstream from the above two nests. However, it could not be seen or reached due to very dense vegetation.

In 1996, I located a nest within 100 m of the 1993 observations and made repeated visits. On 27 June, 2 adults were seen in a sugar hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), within 4 m of an empty nest, which was 7 m above the ground. The nest tree was in a small clearing, about 20 m from the nearest forest fragment. On 28 June, I flushed an adult from the same nest, which then contained a fresh egg. On 3 and 7 July, I observed an adult sitting tightly on the nest but did not flush it. On 22 and 31 July, no adults were present and the nest, although apparently undisturbed, was empty. I inferred that predation had occurred, since there would not have been time for the egg to hatch and a nestling to fledge.

Other evidence of breeding in the Lower Rio Grande Valley—In the Falcon Dam-Roma section of the Rio Grande, Red-billed Pigeons were observed regularly from April through September. They were heard singing as early as 15 April (1996), and 30 birds were seen or heard here on 15 April 1995. Two Red-billed Pigeons almost copulated on 13 May 1995 in Starr Co. One bird was just beginning to mount the other, until disturbed by the canoe. In the same area, on 8 July 1995 a male sang for about one minute, <1 m above an abandoned Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) nest, which was about 4 m up in a huisache (*Acacia smallii*) tree. This bird was pointing its bill down toward the nest while it was singing. Red-billed Pigeons were not observed along the Rio Grande in this area during March (1994–1996) or November (1993).

No Red-billed Pigeon nests were observed at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, and singing males were only sporadically present there: On 16 March 1995, a male sang high in a leafless ash in deteriorating Texas ebony (*Pithecellobium ebano*) evergreen forest. On 10 May 1995, a male sang in the top of a tall Texas ebony, about 350 m north of the 16 March location. Biweekly visits to these areas failed to turn up any additional Red-billed Pigeons, and no others

were seen or heard in other areas of Santa Ana. No Red-billed Pigeons were observed during regular field work in Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park during 1993–1996.

DISCUSSION

Once recorded commonly from the Brownsville, Cameron County area (Friedmann 1925), upriver to Hidalgo and Mission, Hidalgo County (Sennett 1878), Red-billed Pigeons now appear restricted to the section of the Rio Grande upstream from Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. A combination of habitat loss and habitat deterioration is probably responsible for the decline. Many large cedar elms (*Ulmus crassifolia*), Texas ebonies, sugar hackberries and Mexican ashes have died during recurring droughts since 1953, at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge (Oberholser 1974). The fact that most remaining Red-billed Pigeons nest on islands suggests that predation also may have played a role in population declines in Hidalgo Co.

The mature Mexican ash/black willow woodland in Starr Co., between Falcon Dam and Roma, represents the largest remaining stand of large riparian trees along the lower Rio Grande (Winckler 1976) and apparently supports the largest remaining Red-bill population. A small population may extend upstream from Falcon Reservoir, as a Red-billed Pigeon was reported sitting on a nest in Zapata Co. on 6 May 1990 (Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Program), and three pairs were seen in 1996, in a poorly known area upstream from Laredo, Webb Co. (M. Woodin, pers. comm.).

More field work is needed in the main population center along both sides of the river in the Falcon Dam-Roma area of Starr Co., to determine nesting success and population stability. The importance of adjacent thornscrub habitat for foraging should be determined, as birds have been observed foraging in possum grape (*Cissus incisa*) vines on mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) trees in Starr Co. (T. Brush, pers. obs.). There seems to be relatively little fruit available in the riparian forest itself for this highly frugivorous species (Dickey and Van Rossem 1938). Field work should also be conducted in the lower canyons of the Sierra de los Picachos in nearby Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and in streams draining those mountains, as well as along the Rio Grande in the Zapata and Laredo areas. In most of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, water management will be needed to restore riparian habitat potentially suitable for Red-billed Pigeons and other declining riparian bird species (Brush 1998).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

RHAMPHOTHECAL HYPERKERATOSIS IN A BRONZED COWBIRD

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On 20 October 1996 a morphologically unusual Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*) (Fig. 1) (AOU 1983) was captured in a standard wire funnel trap in Kingsville, Texas. Upon examination we noticed that the upper maxilla was extraordinarily elongated, a phenomenon known as rhamphothecal hyperkeratosis, with the lower mandible broken off near the base. The bird died from trap induced injuries after which we conducted an external visual examination of the specimen (voucher #TAIC1185, Department of Biology, Texas A&M University-Kingsville).

Bronzed cowbirds generally have a culmen length between 12.5 and 13.0 mm (Pyle et al. 1987). This specimen exhibited a jagged edged mandible (lower beak) 3.5 mm in length, which had been broken. Apparently, with the lower rostrum missing, the maxilla continued to grow and reached a length of 40.94 mm. The elongated maxilla was slightly curved downward and had a straight culmen length of 39.98 mm. The width of the maxilla at the base was 5.57 mm and at the tip 2.24 mm.

Trauma induced fractures of the mandible are not unusual in pet psittacines (Lumeij 1994). In addition, infections are generally secondary to damage affecting the horny layer of the beak (Altman 1982). Although rhinothecal overgrowth in pet birds has been correlated with hepatopathy (Minsky and Petrak 1982), trauma to the dermis of the rostrum often causes a lesion to form that prevents regrowth of the beak (Cooper and Harrison 1994). This may have been the case in our specimen. Beaks normally grow indeterminately and are kept at a given length by various mechanisms, including the abrasive action of the upper and lower rostrum against each other (Cooper and Harrison 1994). The lack of a lower mandible probably led to the rhamphothecal hyperkeratosis in our specimen.

Information on beak growth rates (Cooper and Harrison 1994, Ludicke 1933), indicate it would have taken at least one year for the maxilla of this specimen to grow to a length of 40.94 mm. The growth rate of the maxilla may have been slowed since there was no stimulus from abrasive wear with the lower beak, suggesting a possibly longer growth period.

Morphological characteristics and measurements taken on this bird included the following: weight 60.6 g, wing chord 118 mm, tail length 79 mm, tarsus length 26.4 mm, eye color light orange (turning bright yellow post mortem), flight feather molt primaries 9, 8, and alula, body molt approximately 50%, and skull completely pneumatized. All these measurements are within normal parameters for Bronzed Cowbirds (Dunning, Jr. 1993, Pyle et al. 1987, Rappole and Blacklock

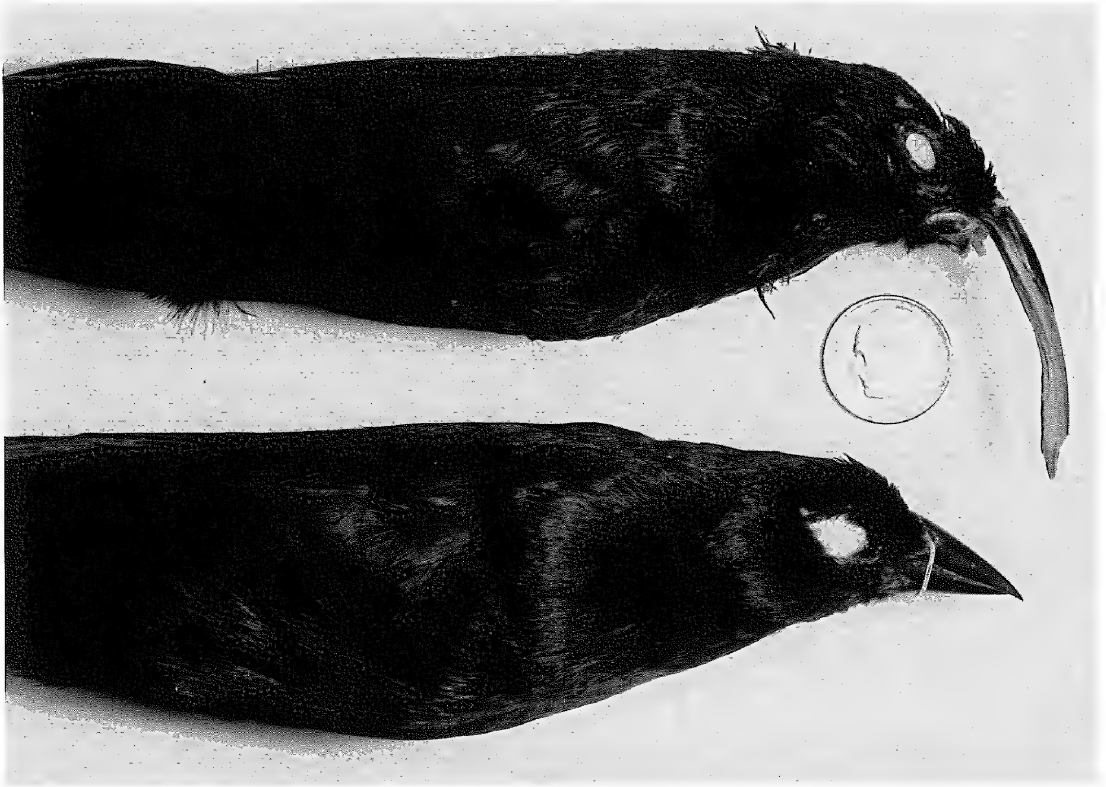


Fig. 1. A Bronzed Cowbird exhibiting rhamphothecal hyperkeratosis (top) and a typical specimen (bottom).

1994). Plumage appeared in good condition and no ectoparasites were observed. Plumage and wing chord indicated an adult male.

Despite its infirmity, the bird was not suffering from malnutrition, as evidenced by 10–20% body fat present in the furcular hollow (Gill 1995). This individual clearly adapted to its affliction and must have adopted a modified form of feeding behavior which allowed it not only to survive, but to maintain good physical condition. Although birds are often able to survive with various physical debilitations (*pers obs*), behavioral adaptability to a physical deformity would seem to be a far less common occurrence.

We were unable to find documentation of this type of phenomenon in wild birds, hypothetically because of low survivability to this type of trauma. Because of the extent of the deformity, we believe that survival for such a substantial period of time is probably unusual. Further, because cowbirds feed by pecking (as do most Passeriforms) the deformity would necessitate changes in feeding behavior (Cooper and Harrison 1994). We believe this report describes an extremely rare phenomenon and consequently warrants documentation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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WINTER MORTALITY OF CAVE SWALLOWS IN SOUTH TEXAS

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Cave Swallows (*Hirundo fulva*) have overwintered in south Texas since at least 1986 (Lasley and Sexton 1987). Three hundred individuals were sighted at Lake Braunig near San Antonio during the winter of 1987–1988 and smaller numbers were seen at other locations in the state (Lasley and Sexton 1988). Cave Swallows are now common in south Texas during the winter and birds have been seen as far north as Travis County (Lasley et al. 1995). This report describes the behavior and subsequent mortality of Cave Swallows at seven locations on I-35 between San Antonio and Cotulla during an extended period of cold in January 1997.

The weather station at Cotulla recorded daytime temperatures from 1–6 January 1997 ranging from 21.1 to 31.1°C (70–80°F). Temperatures then began to drop with a low of minus 1.1°C (30°F) on 9 January. From 11–14 January highs ranged from 2.3 to 3.3°C (36–38°F) with lows of minus 1.7 to plus 1.1°C (29–34°F). There was intermittent mist and light rain from 15 through 21 January and daytime temperatures did not rise above 20°C (68°F).

The response of the swallows to cold was first observed on 12 January at the I-35 overpass at Millett, Texas. Fifteen to 20 swallows were seen huddled at the top of the north side incline of the overpass. This location apparently shielded them from the wind. An additional 8–10 birds were in their nests. The birds in the huddle flew away briefly when approached, but then returned to again huddle in the same spot. The birds in the huddle returned to their nests during the late afternoon, but on the following morning (13 Jan.) they were again observed huddling, sometimes stacked two deep on the steep incline. In the early afternoon the birds returned to their roosts and eight were seen in a single nest. On the morning of the 14th the birds were again huddled on the incline. As on the previous day, they returned to their nests in the early afternoon. One nest was observed to contain 10 swallows. The morning of 15 January was clear and the temperature was above freezing. One bird was found dead and another too weak to fly. The rest of the birds were gone, presumably foraging for insects.

On the 15th, a search was made for Cave Swallows at several locations between Cotulla and San Antonio. Dead birds were found at seven locations. Huddling similar to that at Millett was observed at one site. The seven sites at which dead birds were initially found were visited several times over the next three weeks and again searched for dead birds. Many of the swallows apparently died while roosting and their remains were not found until House Sparrows removed them from the nests several days later. Other individuals apparently died while foraging and their remains were not found, e.g., the entire colony of 25–30 birds at the Millett site presumably died, yet only 15 dead birds were found.

A total of 102 dead swallows were found at the following locations: I-35 overpass just south of the Neuces River at Cotulla (4 birds), I-35 overpass of FM 468 at Cotulla (31 birds), I-35 overpass at Millett (15 birds), I-35 overpasses of FM 1531 and adjacent drainage ditch at Pearsall (48 birds), I-35 bridge one mile south of Natalia (1 bird), I-35 overpass at exit 127 on the south side of Lytle (2 birds),

and the I-35 bridge over the North Prong of the Atascosa River at Lytle (1 bird). The last live bird at any of the locations was seen on 19 January.

The death of Cave Swallows following snow and subfreezing temperatures has been observed at Carlsbad, New Mexico (West 1995). Clustering as a response to cold has been reported for several other species of swallows (Grubb 1973, Weatherhead et al. 1985), but I can find no previous record of this behavior in the Cave Swallow.

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Information for Contributors

The *Bulletin of the Texas Ornithological Society* is a semiannual journal which publishes original research reports and short communications in the field of ornithology. Articles on a wide range of subjects are accepted, including documentation of new Texas records, interpretations of laboratory and field studies, historical perspectives on Texas ornithology, and developments in theory and methodology. Although the emphasis is on Texas birds, the *Bulletin* accepts papers which advance the knowledge of birds in general.

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Scientific and common names of North American birds must follow the 1983 A.O.U. Check-list and supplements. The 24-hour clock (0730), the continental dating convention (3 January 1989), and the metric system should be used.

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Articles, artwork and photographs submitted for inclusion in the *Bulletin* should be sent to the editor: Jack Clinton Eitnienar, 218 Conway Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78209.

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